

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2001-260-C - ORDER NO. 2001-999

OCTOBER 12, 2001

IN RE: Application of OmniCall International for	)	ORDER GRANTING
Approval to Transfer Assets to Talk America,	)	REQUESTED RELIEF
Inc.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Application of OmniCall International f/k/a OmniCall, Inc. (OmniCall), a subsidiary of Talk America Holdings, Inc. for authority to return its Certificate and to transfer its customers to its affiliate Talk America, Inc. Through the proposed transfer of customers to Talk America and cancellation of its authority, Talk America Holdings seeks to simplify its operation in South Carolina. There are no proposed changes in the rates or services to be offered after the completion of the transfer, thus OmniCall believes that there should be no adverse impact to ratepayers or to the public.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Executive Director, OmniCall published a Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received. OmniCall has now filed a Motion for Expedited Review of its Application, accompanied by the written verified testimony of Sharon Thomas, Director of Regulatory Affairs of Talk America, Inc. We grant the Motion, and hold that our Commission meeting of October 9, 2001 shall constitute the "due hearing" required under S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-310 (Supp. 2000).

Sharon Thomas testified that OmniCall is requesting authority from this Commission to voluntarily return its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide local and long distance services in the State of South Carolina and authority to transfer its customers to its affiliate, Talk America. Additionally, OmniCall requests that the Commission cancel its authority to provide the above-stated services. Thomas states that the surrender of OmniCall's certificates and the transfer of OmniCall's customers have been initiated by its corporate parent, Talk America Holdings, Inc. in order to consolidate certain of its telecommunications operations in South Carolina and throughout the United States. OmniCall is seeking to cancel its Certificate. Thomas notes that the relief requested will allow for a more efficient delivery of services to customers. Talk America possesses the requisite Certificate to provide the necessary services.

Based on the testimony of Ms. Thomas, we herein grant the relief sought as filed for the reasons stated above.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director  
(SEAL)